

L.T. - OLDSMOBILE, FISHER, TUES. DEC. 24, 1963.

(Melvin Snyder-writer; R.Hottelet, Substitute)

page boys and the clerks - completing their paper

work. The foreign aid bill was hustled off to the  
**GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:**

Senate - which is expected to approve the measure.  
It took ten days - three tries - and it produced  
on Monday - President Johnson meanwhile, flew home  
some bruised feelings at both ends of Pennsylvania  
to spend the holidays at the L.B.J. ranch,  
Avenue. But today - all the efforts paid off - as

President Johnson won his first major battle with  
Congress - when the House voted in an unprecedented  
dawn session - to abandon its attempt to curb wheat  
sales to the Soviet Union. The wheat credit amendment  
was passed in a House roll call vote - as part of the  
three billion dollar foreign aid bill. Immediately  
after the bitterly contested vote - the weary House  
members agreed to adjourn the current session next  
Monday. None of the Congressmen stayed around to talk  
shop as members often do. Within minutes the House was  
empty - its microphones were hooded with green baize  
covers - and in the lobby were only two shirtsleeved



## CAROLINE

President Johnson today recalled his close association with the Kennedy family - while he was Vice President. One day - said Mister Johnson - while President Kennedy and his cabinet were struggling with a new budget - the phone rang. The Vice President picked it up and heard a small voice at the other end. It was six year old Caroline Kennedy. "I want the President" - she said. "Darling" - replied Mister Johnson - "Daddy is working in the cabinet room". "Why don't you let my Daddy come home" - asked little Caroline. Mrs. Kennedy was away at the time.

The White House said today that Caroline will have a bright red fire engine for Christmas - the gift of sixteen year old Lucy Baines Johnson - daughter of the President. Lucy delivered the gift to the Kennedy home in Georgetown last week - before Caroline left for Palm Beach - where Mrs. Kennedy took her children for the holidays.

## CYPRUS

The strife-torn island Republic of Cyprus saw new violence today between the Greek and Turkish populations - despite appeals for calm and order from their national leaders and despite the efforts of neutral diplomats. At least four Greeks and two Turks are reported dead today - the fourth day of open fighting between elements of the two communities, and the climax of friction that goes back much farther. The traditional enmity between Turk and Greek is concentrated into an explosive mixture on Cyprus. There Greeks outnumber Turks some four to one - and when Cyprus won its independence from Britain in 1960, the Turks feared that their rights would be ground down/ They feared especially that the island would become part of Greece. Guarantees were written into the constitution - the Turks were promised a fixed share of government jobs and their own municipal life.

But the guarantees have been put into practice only slowly if at all. Resentment has grown in the Turkish community - and it burst out in gunfire last Saturday. Since then twenty-three people have been killed - and more than fifty wounded. Tonight Britain and the United States offered the mediation of their diplomatic representatives - neither country wants more trouble in the Mediterranean which has more than its share of headaches already.

displeasure in the form of an angry crowd of five hundred people outside the U.S. Embassy. But in the meanwhile Mr. Sukarno apparently switched a few signals. Government security forces dispersed the crowd, with shots fired into the air.

## INDONESIA

There was some uproar today in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia. Last Thursday, President Sukarno thundered defiant disapproval of the United States plan to send portions of the Seventh Fleet into the Indian Ocean. Mr. Sukarno chose to see this as a move to counter his intention of crushing the new federation of Malaysia. Extremist elements in Indonesia are seldom slow to take their cue from Sukarno. Today they voiced his displeasure in the form of an angry crowd of five hundred people outside the U.S. Embassy. But in the meanwhile Mr. Sukarno apparently switched a few signals. Government security forces dispersed the crowd, with shots fired into the air.

## POPE

Pope Paul the Sixth appealed to the nations of the world tonight to do their utmost to keep the peace. Speaking to the diplomatic corps assembled for midnight mass in the Sistine Chapel of the Vatican, Pope Paul appealed for negotiations to avert war - even, as he put it, if they appear in certain aspects humiliating. "It is necessary to negotiate", said the Pope, "to negotiate without tiring, to avoid this supreme humiliation, the supreme catastrophe, the recourse to arms."

"We had to look after ourselves, getting into lifeboats," she said. "There were no ladders," she added, "and we had to get off as best we could."

Other passengers told much the same story - one man saying that he will take up the situation with his lawyer. "The crew was horrible" - he said - "was in a state of shock." The Greek ship - which operated

## LAKONIA

Echoing from the island of Madeira - in the eastern Atlantic - are some angry words today.

"Horrible, disgraceful, terrible, undisciplined" -

and so on. The angry words - uttered by many survivors

of the blaze at sea aboard the Greek cruise ship

Lakonia. More than half of the estimated 945

survivors arrived today on the sunny Portuguese

island - and complained that the crew aboard the ship

was "no help at all" in the caos that followed the

fire. One of the complaints, from a British woman.

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the thirty-four year old Lakonia on holiday cruises -  
refuses to comment on what it calls "isolated  
incidents." At least thirty four persons are known  
dead - and fifty seven are missing - of the one-  
thousand thirty-six passengers and crewmen.

INTRO THOMAS TAPE:

There's a story tonight - about Christmas at  
the frozen wastes of Antarctica. It comes to us from  
sunny Hawaii - of all places - from vacationing Lowell  
Thomas - who sent us this report. Lowell.....

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The frozen wastes of Antarctica to the  
north - hills - Christians tonight are giving  
thanks to remember the birth of Christ at Bethlehem  
nearly two thousand years ago. In Jerusalem - where  
a spring-like warmth caresses the rolling hills - the  
gates between the two parts of the divided city were  
thrown open today - to allow thousands of Christian  
pilgrims to celebrate Christmas in Bethlehem.

Thousands of Israeli-Christians lined up before dawn  
to cross the frontier - fortified with sand bags and  
barbed wire - dividing the holy land between hostile  
Israel and Jordan. The crossing began at sunrise -  
while Israeli and Arab troops watched from machine  
gun posts - as long lines of Pilgrims trudged past  
the ruins of war through the Mandelbaum Gate - a red  
and white barrier flanked with concrete tank traps  
and barbed wire. The Israeli Pilgrims were Jordan

## CHRISTMAS

From the frozen wastes of Antarctica to the warm Judean hills - Christians tonight are giving pause to remember the birth of Christ at Bethlehem nearly two thousand years ago. In Jerusalem - where a spring-like warmth caresses the rolling hills - the gates between the two parts of the divided city were thrown open today - to allow thousands of Christian pilgrims to celebrate Christmas in Bethlehem.

Thousands of Israeli-Christians lined up before dawn to cross the frontier - fortified with sand bags and barbed wire - dividing the holy land between hostile Israel and Jordan. The crossing began at sunrise - while Israeli and Arab troops watched from machine gun posts - as long lines of Pilgrims trudged past the ruins of war through the Mandlebaum Gate - a red and white barrier flanked with concrete tank traps and barbed wire. The Israeli Pilgrims wore Jordan

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headdress or other Arab apparel. Several blind men were led by their sons and daughters - many going for a brief reunion with their loved ones in Jordan.

That's the news - for Lowell Thomas and myself - a very Merry Christmas.